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**Fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

**Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters**

**Advancement of women**

**Human rights questions**

## Note verbale dated 28 July 1998 from the Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to enclose a communiqué from the Mission to the States Members of the United Nations.

The Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea would be grateful if the Secretary-General could have the communiqué circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 46, 59, 106 and 113 of the provisional agenda.

New York, 28 July 1998

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# Annex

## Communiqué of the Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the States Members of the United Nations

As the United Nations is reviewing the twentieth century and working out ways and means to meet new challenges in the twenty-first century, it should not look away from the problem of Japan's liquidation of its past, which has remained unresolved for more than half a century.

In the past, Japan occupied other countries illegally and inflicted immeasurable suffering and misfortune upon them, but it has never apologized or offered compensation for its crimes.

Despite this, Japan is now aspiring to permanent membership in the Security Council. This is a mockery and an insult to the international community.

The Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations, recognizing that it is important for the States Members of the United Nations to pay due attention to the problem of Japan's liquidation of its past, a problem which will pose a new challenge for the twenty-first century, issues the present communiqué.

– Japan committed the extra-large crimes unprecedented in history during its illegal occupation of Korea in the first half of the twentieth century.

Japan fabricated the "Ulsa Five-Point Treaty" in 1905 and "Jongmi . 'oint Treaty" in 1907 and enforced a colonial predatory policy in Korea for 41 years. It is a fact well known to the world that those treaties, which were proved to be false documents without endorsement of a Korean king, were unilaterally concocted and promulgated by Japan.

During its colonial rule, Japan kidnapped and drafted 6 million young and middle-aged Koreans forcibly and used them as tools for its aggressive war and went so far as to kill most of them, thus committing inhuman crimes which can by no means be pardoned.

Its barbaric crimes also included bringing nearly 200,000 Korean women as "comfort women" for the imperial army and trampling on them in the prime of their lives and massacring them.

Moreover, Japan had attempted to obliterate the national culture and also plundered hundreds of billions of dollars worth of gold, silver, mineral, coal, grain, livestock and cultural assets.

The gravity of the crimes and the dimension of the damage caused by Japan during its past colonial rule in Korea are unprecedented indeed.

– Japan refuses even to admit its past crimes and attempts to justify the aggressive history.

In the post-war 50 years, high-ranking Japanese Government officials have continued to speak about justifying past crimes.

A former Japanese Minister of the General Affairs Agency made reckless remarks to the effect that Japan had enforced its colonial rule over Korea in order to do good things for the latter because Korea was weak at that time. And former Japanese Minister of the Environment Agency said that the Pacific War was not aggressive but led to Asian countries' independence from colonial rule.

Japan's trick of beautifying and embellishing its past crime finds expression in the problem of "comfort women".

Japan resorts to every conceivable scheme to escape State responsibility for the crimes which it committed upon the "comfort women".

Worse still, Japan has recently shown in public a film praising Hideki Tojo, who was executed as a most notorious criminal, so as to incite the ambition of overseas expansion.

– Japan should make an apology and give full compensation for its past crimes against our people.

Japan's apology and full compensation for its past crimes is not a matter that can be skipped over and left unresolved.

Our people have the legitimate right to obtain an apology and compensation from Japan for the damage they suffered in the past.

Japan has been creating artificial difficulties in past Democratic People's Republic of Korea-Japan talks as well as in the recent Democratic People's Republic of Korea-Japan contacts, thus disrupting the talks, which had been so difficult to organize, and continuing its hostile attempt to isolate and stifle our Republic.

This is nothing but a crafty trick by Japan to maintain its hostile policy against our country and reveals an ulterior intention not to make any apology or compensation to us.

It is a requirement of international law that an assailant apologize for his crime and compensate the victim. Accordingly, only when Japan does so will it be discharging its political, legal and moral responsibilities.

The experiences of Germany and other defeated nations in the post-war period showed that, only when they departed from the past by making apologies and due compensation for their aggressive actions was it possible for them to take a new road to development

Therefore, Japan's apology and full compensation for past crimes can be a criteria for determining whether Japan has committed itself not to repeat its past crime or not. On the contrary, failure to apologize and compensate for its past crime is nothing but an implication that past crimes will be repeated.

– The United Nations will have to make Japan apologize and give full compensation for the past crimes it committed against our people.

In view of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, the United Nations assumes important responsibilities for making Japan liquidate its past and preventing the resurgence of Japanese militarism and ambition for overseas expansion.

The Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-first session appointed a Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women with mandates to submit a report, on an annual basis, calling for a full investigation into the "comfort women" and compensation. We believe that this is a significant step enabling the United Nations to recognize and put into question the unresolved problem of "comfort women" of Japan.

Japan, while failing to make a clean slate of its past, is now seeking a permanent seat on the Security Council. This is a grave challenge to the United Nations Charter and to international justice.

If Japan is allowed to become a permanent member of the Security Council simply because it is one of the large financial contributors, it will be the same as tacit recognition of Japan's past crimes and, furthermore, will encourage Japan to become a military power.

Therefore, we hold that the United Nations should pay due attention to Japan's refusal to liquidate its past rather than discussing its permanent membership in the Security Council. If necessary, measures should be taken to discuss the problem of Japan's past crimes at the General Assembly or to bring it to the attention of the International Court of Justice.